

Minutes of the Multi Agency Flood Defence Meeting held on Thursday 23rd April 2015 in Lydney Town Council Chambers at 11.08 am

PRESENT: Cllr Brian Pearman, Lydney NDP **(BP)**
 Cllr Alan Preest, Lydney Town Council **(AP)** (late arrival)
 Dawn Morgan, Gloucestershire County Council **(DM)**
 Matthew Panou, Gloucestershire County Council **(MP)**
 Chris Johns, Forest of Dean District Council **(CJ)**
 Martin Young, Environment Agency **(MY)**
 Jason Westmoreland, Forest of Dean District Council **(JW)**
 Rose Christodoulides, Lakeside Resident Representative **(RC)**
 Lee Moorhouse, Service Delivery Operations, Severn Trent Water Ltd **(LM)**
 Wayne Ellis, Investment Management, Severn Trent Water Ltd **(WE)**

CONFERENCE CALL: John Thurston, Watts Group **(JT)**

IN ATTENDANCE: Kate Hammond, Admin Assistant, Lydney Town Council (Minute Taker)

APOLOGIES: Cllr Bob Berryman (Lydney Town Council)
 Dr Jerry Burch (Glatfelter Lydney Ltd)
 Dave Street (Lydney NDP)
 David Graham (Gloucestershire County Council)
 Chris Bull (Dean Forest Railway)
 Richard Price (Lydney Park Estate)
 Robert Frankton (Lydney Park Estate)
 Brian Watkins (Gloucestershire County Council Highways)

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p>WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS Cllr Brian Pearman chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table.</p>	
2.	<p>NOTES OF LAST MEETING (22 January 2015) One amendment was proposed by RC: paragraph 9, item 5, Action point – ‘RC to provide footage/photographic evidence of high level flood water at Lakeside & attenuation pond’ RC confirmed that the photographs and footage were shown to Brian Watkins, Gloucestershire County Council Highways, and Jason Westmoreland, Forest of Dean District Council, after the meeting on the same day and therefore this was no longer an action point. Accordingly JW asked whether RC could speak to Colin Legg to see if he could forward any pictures of the penstop to him.</p> <p>Referring to the previous minutes item 4, Plummers Brook, BP advised that he had met with Cllr Vernon Smith, (responsible for Highways and Flooding) but they hadn’t managed to walk as far as Plummers Brook. BP advised that Cllr Vernon Smith’s working profession was that of a civil engineer and in his professional view he was not impressed with the overall situation at Lakeside Avenue</p>	

	<p>and further expressed concern about the Hitchins development A and B upstream. He also felt that the work to the rear of the properties at Lakeside Avenue could be compromised by the Oakdale estate. BP committed to continue to work closely with people such as CCIr Vernon Smith to ensure that such issues are closely monitored.</p> <p>The meeting notes were then accepted as a true record.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>CONSERVATION BOUNDARIES AREA MAP BP confirmed that he would send copies of the conservation area map (NDP Examiners version) to Dean Forest Railway, if they required them, however confirmed that the boundaries on the NDP version of the map were the same as the FODDC conservation area map, the only difference being that the NDP version had been re-scaled so it may have appeared different in certain areas.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>FLOODING TO LAKESIDE/FALLER FIELDS JS asked whether FODDC were any further forward in regard to the TPO's on the stretch of the watercourse leading to the culvert (rear of 115 Lakeside Avenue) and queried the timescale for such work. JW advised that FODDC were awaiting an 'official authorisation' due to the 30 metres of different species of trees such as Hazel, Sycamore and Willow. FODDC had received verbal confirmation that the mature trees would be staying but they would partially cut and bend over trees in certain areas, others would be felled dependent on species. FODDC were also being mindful of the 'bird nesting season' in relation to the upper reaches. JW confirmed that the work would be carried out towards the end of August 2015.</p> <p>JW further advised that FODDC would then concentrate on the Crump Farm area and would look at placing a blanket TPO with plans for Crump Farm Wildlife Haven. JW advised that work at Crump Farm could take 3 months.</p> <p>RC expressed her frustration that the timescale for the stretch of the watercourse leading to the culvert was nearing 2 years now, in response JW advised that the main priority had been the A48 work as it was the main input into the problems at Lakeside Avenue. BP advised that he had driven past the bypass the previous evening and noticed tree work was being carried out, furthermore he questioned whether FODDC had received a response from B Green in regard to the attenuation pond. JW advised that a response was due at the end of April 2015.</p> <p>BP provided an update on the Coach House at Fallers Field advising that RC had spoken to Chris Swain on 13 April 2015 regarding the progress on Flood Alleviation at Fallers fields and the project was due to be completed by the end of August 2015.</p>	

	<p>BP advised that investigations were still ongoing in regard to the ownership of the trash screen and he could not understand why this was taking FODDC's legal team so long to resolve. Cllr Thomas had previously contacted Peter Hibberd who advised that he would look into the matter further and respond in due course however such a response was still awaited.</p> <p>RC advised that she had brought along with her to the meeting some questions that Mr Colin Legg (115 Lakeside Avenue) wanted answered. The first question was in regard to the TPO's, he wished to know whether they were within the proposed development plan of 750 homes and whether the land belonging to FODDC was included within this development? In response JW advised that yes the trees were within what was called 'the red line' boundary. The second question was in regard to phase 2 of the MMC development renewal of planning application, Mr Legg questioned why JW in his capacity of Land Drainage Officer, had not commented on the application knowing that it would exasperate the threat of flooding to Lakeside Avenue. JW advised that he hadn't had the resource to respond.</p> <p>RC questioned how a new trash screen with 20 years of maintenance would reduce the risk of flooding when the grassland had been concreted over, causing higher volumes of water run-off. JW advised that attenuation measures would be put in place so it wouldn't be higher.</p> <p>RC stressed that when FODDC proposed developments they needed to consider SUDS as these were previously ignored when the Oakdale estate was granted and this had led to various flooding issues FODDC also needed to consider the impact on existing watercourses. RC further suggested that a new culvert should be sited at the rear of Lakeside if further housing developments were being planned in the area surrounding Lakeside Avenue.</p>	<p>Action: JW/CJ to gain response re. Culvert Ownership</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>PLUMMERS BROOK BP advised that Plummers Brook Map had been deemed as low priority, due to bigger issues such as Lakeside Avenue. It was felt that Plummers Brook should be re-visited following as/when completion of houses on Highfield Hill to see whether there was an impact on said watercourse. CJ agreed that they should continue with walking the route of Plummers Brook but as the area had not been affected or is not affecting other areas at present, the matter should be deferred. All Agreed.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>SEWAGE Conference call at 11.30am from John Thurston</p> <p>JT questioned what actions Severn Trent had in place due to protect public health given the risk of Sewage at Mead Lane.</p>	

<p>Lee Moorhouse (LM), Service Delivery Operations, Severn Trent Water Ltd advised that his colleague had met with the MD of Watts Group and had recorded incidents on 7 Feb 2014. LM explained that any recorded incidents would be fed into a 'Flood Register' which was monitored by Severn Trent.</p> <p>Wayne Ellis (WE), Investment Management, Severn Trent Water Ltd advised that Severn Trent had introduced a 'feasibility study' which was a catchment wide study that would also monitor other issues across Lydney. The information from the study would help in deciding when investment was going to be made. The study would also inform Severn Trent as to what improvements could be made in the catchment area. The issues that Severn Trent were faced with was that the feasibility work would continue until the end of 2015, the study needed this amount of time to gather the information required. JT expressed his frustration at the timescale and queried why it had already taken 2 years to complete the feasibility study. LM advised that they were investigating this point. LM further advised that the information that was needed relied on the weather and the hydraulic modelling/measures.</p> <p>JS questioned, in regard to the flow measure, whether Severn Trent would take into account sewage and storm/grey water? WE confirmed that Severn Trent would look at a combined system. JS further questioned as and when the 'feasibility study' had been concluded, would Severn Trent have capital available? WE advised that Severn Trent were still investigating the scale of the problem so had not earmarked any capital at present.</p> <p>BP asked Severn Trent whether the study would include contingency for extra houses? WE advised that yes, future development would be part of the modelling exercise.</p> <p>BP advised that he had previously visited the treatment works and could see first-hand that the pumping station was inadequate for sewage and storm water at Church Road and into Mead Lane. Furthermore BP felt that the issues were of great concern as the Council had received various planning applications and potentially Lydney could have extra developments resulting in extra sewage.</p> <p>WE advised that Severn Trent have been working to resolve a number of issues such as flooding to houses due to inadequate sewage systems and these have resulted in a high unit cost. Going forward Severn Trent are looking more closely at reducing such incidents and are looking at extending the catchment area.</p> <p>Referring to a previous comment by Severn Trent in regard to 'weighing up costs' JS suggested that Severn Trent look at funding required to further projects in Lydney and requested that Severn Trent provide Lydney Town Council with relevant wording that would</p>	<p>Action: Severn Trent to provide information/report on the work they are doing at Mead Lane</p> <p>Action: Severn Trent to look at funding required to further projects and report back</p> <p>Action: Severn Trent</p>
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	<p>necessitate consideration to be given to drainage schemes by LPA. WE advised that Severn Trent would look at costs and provide the wording and Severn Trent Asset Protection Team would provide all relevant information.</p> <p>BP advised that the EA had given a licence to Severn Trent to discharge into the River Lyd. WE advised that this had been allocated in Severn Trent's business plans and they accepted that there was insufficient capacity at the treatment works however they were treating in accordance with License.</p> <p>JS inquired whether FODDC, when it came to planning, were able to insist developers contribute to such schemes? JW advised that there is a "Grampian Condition" in place which was a planning condition attached to a decision notice that prevents the start of a development until off-site works have been completed on land not controlled by the applicant, subject of a Section 104 Agreement under the Water Industry Act. JS asked FODDC whether in the application for 750 houses, this could be highlighted?</p> <p>BP advised that in regard to drainage the Town Council will take a robust approach to this when consulting on planning applications and therefore requested that any information that Severn Trent have regarding drainage would be beneficial to the Council as well as the Flood Defence Group.</p> <p>LM requested that any flooding issue should be reported to Severn Trent in order that it could be logged along with any photographic evidence. BP advised that the main problems were in the areas close to the treatment works, Cookson Terrace and Station Road. LM advised that as part of Severn Trent's investigations they would be sending out questionnaires.</p>	<p>Asset Protection Team to provide Lydney Town Council with relevant wording that would necessitate consideration to be given to drainage schemes by LPA.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOOD MAP</p> <p>BP advised that the aim of highlighting the EA Flood Map was that people wanted to be clear as to what the current situation was in regard to the flooding risk to the town centre. The outline was prepared by the EA who had come up with the guidance map used by the LPA, which is available to view online at http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk. The area identified was sometimes referred to as a 'functional flood plain' and was derived from mathematical monitoring. Its guidance is issued by planners.</p> <p>Cllr Preest arrived at this point.</p> <p>JS made everyone aware of the reasons behind why the maps were so important, they were prohibiting any form of re-generation of Lydney town centre, as they suggested that the town was within a high flood risk which the Town Council disputes. Also the Town</p>	

	<p>Council want to know why an application for the centre of town was refused by FODDC when there was already building's there (Brownfield Site). JW advised that FODDC could not be seen to put people at risk and flood alleviation is a worry. JS felt that FODDC needs to re-evaluate the decision on Lydney town centre and invited JW to attend a further meeting in regard to the regeneration of Lydney town. JW advised that he would be willing to attend as it could be treated as a pre-app consultation and that he would liaise closely with Martin Young (EA) to re-evaluate Lydney's Flood Risk.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>ACTION PLAN/ACTIONS PENDING MP advised that from 15 April 2015 at GCC there would be Statutory Consultees for any developments that were deemed to be in a flood zone.</p> <p>Action points for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JW/CJ to gain response re. Culvert Ownership • Severn Trent to provide information/report on the work they are doing at Mead Lane • Severn Trent to look at funding required to further projects in Lydney and report back • Severn Trent Asset Protection Team to provide Lydney Town Council with relevant wording that would necessitate consideration to be given to drainage schemes by LPA. • FODDC to have letter from CCllr Vernon Smith re flooding concerns 	
<p>9.</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 23 July 2015 at 11.00 am at Lydney Town Council Chambers.</p>	

Meeting closed at 12.15 pm